

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace ABSTRACT on page 16, lines 1-14 with the following revised abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~In a conventional consumable electrode type welding method, owing to the need of the reversing operation of a robot manipulator, an extra response time as well as acceleration and deceleration times are necessary and, at the same time, the feed speed of a welding wire is not be able to catch up with the melting speed of the welding wire to thereby extend the length of an arc, resulting in the unstable arc.~~ In a consumable electrode type welding method according to ~~the invention~~, while feeding a welding wire 1, a welding torch 4 is moved by a robot manipulator 9 in a direction where the welding torch 4 is pulled apart from a base metal 7, so that an initial arc is generated while the welding wire 1 is separated from the base metal 7. This not only can eliminate the need for the reversing operation of the robot manipulator 9 and thus can reduce the waste time to thereby be able to reduce a tact time but also can stabilize an arc in the welding start portion and thus can reduce the “unexpected stop” effectively.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet